

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 9, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 10, rejected claims 1-7, and 10-15 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Roff (US Patent No. 5,764,836), rejected claims 8 and 16 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Roff and Sasaki (US Patent 5,960,141) and rejected claim 9 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Roff in view of Tabuchi (US Patent 5,757,999). In response thereto, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 and cancelled claims 8 and 16. Claims 1-7 and 9-15 remain at issue.

The Art Rejection

The claims have been amended to include a sleeve with a receptacle having a first opening and a second opening. The first opening is configured to receive within the receptacle the silicon bench and ferrule. The second opening is configured to receive a plug-in connector within the receptacle of the sleeve. In contrast, the sleeve 301 of Roff is designed to accommodate only the ferrule 100. See Figures 1 and 4 and Column 4, line 49. In Sasaki, an optical housing 70 or sleeve with hooks 74 is designed to be inserted into holes 68 so the housing 70 can be mounted onto a wiring board 26. See Figures 9 and 10 and Column 8, lines 34-40. Since neither Roff or Sasaki, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a sleeve with a receptacle having a first opening configured to receive the silicon bench and ferrule, all the pending claims of the present invention are patentable.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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